REMARKS

The following is in response to the Office Action mailed on April 15, 2005, and for which a two-month extension is hereby requested. The Office Action rejected claims 40, 46-51, and 53-57 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, based on failing to comply with the written description requirement for the final element of "wherein said buffer memory has a data storing capacity ..." found in independent claims 40 and 51. It is respectfully submitted that these rejections are in error; however, to facilitate the application process, claims 40 and 51 have been amended to more closely correspond with the explicitly language of the specification. (Also, claim 40 has been reformatted somewhat to rearrange some of the paragraph breaks to make it easier to read.
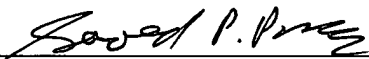
More specifically, the present application states at lines 5 and 6 of paragraph [0075] that "the data shift register 337 shifts in a 64-bit chunk of data, and outputs it in parallel on a WRITE data bus 347." (As described at line 1 of paragraph [0093], the "chunk" is the unit of data stored in a program operation.) As the data shift register 337 is able to output a "chunk" of data in parallel, it consequently has a data storing capacity enabling it to store "a unit of data of a length equal to the data length of said data to be stored at one time of said program operation". Thus, although the application does not explicitly state the limitation of in terms of "a data storing capacity enabling the *receiving*" of a "chunk" of data, it does explicitly state the limitation is terms of "a data storing capacity enabling the *transfer*" of a "chunk" of data. Consequently, although believed allowable in their original forms, to facilitate the application process, the last element of claims 40 and 51 have been amended as follows:

> wherein said buffer memory has a data storing capacity enabling the ~~receiving~~ transfer of a unit of data of a length equal to the data length of said data to be stored at one time of said program operation ...

The Office Action is correct in that element 337 in Figure 6A is described as a shift register; however, it still has " data storing capacity enabling the transfer of a unit of data of a length equal to the data length of said data to be stored at one time of said program operation".

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that a rejection of claims 40, 46-51, and 53-57 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, is not well-founded and should be withdrawn. Reconsideration of claims 40, 46-51, and 53-57 and an early indication of their allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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